

# CLEAR PATH FOR VETERANS CELEBRATES FEMALE VETERAN AND ACTIVE DUTY APPRECIATION DAY

(Mr. KATKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our female veterans and Active-Duty military in all branches and areas of service, as well as those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

This week, Clear Path for Veterans, an organization in central New York in my district, devoted to empowering servicemen and -women, veterans, and their families, will celebrate Female Veteran and Active Duty Appreciation Day to honor the countless women in our community who have served our country.

Women across our great Nation have and continue to put their lives on the line for our freedom and for our democracy. America's servicewomen, veterans, and their families are continually changing the way that our military is defined within our homes, our communities, our Armed Forces, and around the world.

With the number of female veterans at its highest percentage in United States history, Clear Path for Veterans is a pioneer in its commitment to empowering and inspiring women from all branches of service. I stand beside this organization in working to enable women veterans to reach their full potential.

These women have made our country stronger. Their courage and strength have given us freedom, and their sacrifices that they and their families have made should never be forgotten.

## DAY OF PORTUGAL

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today is Dia de Portugal, a time when Portuguese Americans and families of Portuguese descent around the world come together to celebrate their shared heritage and rich cultural traditions.

Over the years, the United States and Portugal have shared a strong friendship, beginning in May of 1791 when Portugal became the first neutral country to recognize the new American Government and continuing today through the pursuit of our shared national security objectives, including our cooperation in the global war on terror.

I am particularly honored to celebrate Day of Portugal because my district, Rhode Island's First Congressional District, has a larger percentage of Portuguese American constituents than any other congressional district in the country.

As chair of the Portuguese American Caucus, I am proud to join my Portuguese American constituents in cele-

brating Dia de Portugal and working to strengthen U.S.-Portugal relations through my work in Congress today by fighting to maintain operations at Lajes Field in the Azores and working to promote better cooperation in the areas of agriculture, education, tourism, and health.

I wish everyone celebrating today a Happy Day of Portugal.

## CELEBRATING BULGARIAN DEMOCRACY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago today was one of the most meaningful of my life as I served as an election observer for the post-Communist parliamentary elections in the Republic of Bulgaria with the International Republican Institute, nominated by RNC Chairman Lee Atwater.

It was a dream come true to visit talented and enthusiastic people at polling locations in the Hissar, Plovdiv region and see a restoration of democracy amidst the amazing antiquities of ancient Thracian, Greek, and Roman cultures. I was welcomed by Professor Stefan Stoyanov, who was elected to the National Assembly and later re-instituted the Rotary Club of Sofia.

In Congress, I have been grateful to co-chair the Bulgarian Caucus; work with dynamic Ambassador Elena Poptodorova; and, this year, led a delegation to Sofia to meet with Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, who is courageously promoting reforms for the people of Bulgaria.

It has been uplifting to meet with dedicated Bulgarian troops, along with my son, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, who now train with Americans at the Novo Selo training base.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

God bless Bulgaria.

## REMEMBERING JOHN GRANVILLE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, John Granville grew up in south Buffalo. He had a curiosity about the world and a desire to serve others. He was a Fulbright scholar and a Peace Corps volunteer who became a career diplomat for the United States Agency for International Development.

In 2007, John was distributing solar-powered radios to remote villages in South Sudan to ensure that the people could participate in upcoming elections. On New Year's Day in 2008, John and a colleague were targeted and assassinated by terrorists in Khartoum. He was 33 years old.

Four men were convicted of the murders, but 6 years ago today, they es-

caped with the aid of a man later pardoned by Sudanese President al-Bashir. Two of the killers remain at large, and the Department of Justice has offered a \$5 million reward for their arrest.

Today, I will introduce a resolution calling on the State Department to maintain Sudan on the state sponsors of terrorism list until al-Bashir's pardon is repealed and John's killers are captured.

When his family expressed concern about his safety, John would say that he knew his work was dangerous, but he wouldn't want to be doing anything else. Today, we remember a man of light and peace and pledge to bring to justice those who took him from us far too soon.

## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, my thanks to Chairman CONAWAY and the Agriculture Committee for their prompt, bipartisan response to the recent WTO ruling against country of origin labeling.

Since 2009, Canada and Mexico argued that our country of origin labeling policy distorts trade across our borders and increases the cost of meat and poultry. In the U.S., we had hoped for a favorable ruling from the WTO, but their rulings and appeals have all been against us. Today, it is time to act to address the problems posed by COOL and prevent the retaliation from our friends in Canada and Mexico.

If not addressed, Canada and Mexico have threatened \$3.6 billion in trade retaliation. This would be a major blow to pork and beef producers in my district; but it is not just livestock producers that would feel the pain. Threatened retaliation would also impact the corn growers in my district, one of the most productive corn growing districts in the Nation, and candy makers like Hershey and Mars that have plants in my district.

Again, I am grateful to Chairman CONAWAY and his attention to this issue and his prompt response to the WTO's ruling. I support this bill to repeal COOL and end the years of uncertainty faced by our farmers, ranchers, and so many others and urge my colleagues to do the same.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, fixing our Nation's crumbling infrastructure to boost the economy and increase transportation safety should not be a partisan issue; yet Republicans in Congress continue to show neglect and indifference towards the Nation's infrastructure and transportation safety needs.